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The phylogenetic relationships of the hat-shaped ascospore-forming, nitrate-assimilating *Pichia* species, formerly classified in the genus *Hansenula* Sydow et Sydow, based on the partial sequences of 18S and 26S ribosomal RNAs (Saccharomycetaceae): the proposals of three new genera, *Ogataea*, *Kuraishia*, and *Nakazawaea*.

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The twenty-seven strains of the hat-shaped ascospore-forming, nitrate-assimilating species, formerly classified in the genus *Hansenula*, of the genus *Pichia* were examined for their 18S and 26S rRNA partial base sequencings. All the strains examined were separate phylogenetically from the type strain of *P. membranaefaciens* (type species of genus *Pichia*). Based on the sequence data obtained [by number of base differences (five or more) with *P. anomala* and base sequences on fingerprint segment] in the 18S rRNA partial base sequences, these species were divided into seven groups. Group I, including *P. anomala* (identical to *H. anomala*, type species of genus *Hansenula*), *P. canadensis*, *P. muscicola*, *P. silvicola*, *P. subpelliculosa*, *P. americana*, *P. bimundalis*, *P. ciferrii*, *P. syndowiorum*, *P. bispora*, and *P. fabianii*, corresponded to the genus *Hansenula* Sydow et Sydow. Groups II and III were comprised of *P. capsulata* and *P. holstii*, respectively. Group IV included *P. angusta*, *P. minuta* var. *minuta*, *P. minuta* var. *nonfermentans*, *P. philodendra*, *P. glucozyma*, and *P. henricii*. Groups V, VI, and VII included *P. jadinii*, *P. petersonii*, and *P. dryadoides*, respectively. The nitrate assimilation-negative species, *P. wickerhamii* was phylogenetically distant from *P. membranaefaciens*. The seven groupings are discussed phylogenetically and taxonomically. For Groups IV, II, and III, the three new genera were proposed as *Ogataea*, *Kuraishia*, and *Nakazawaea*, respectively, with the type species, *O. minuta* (identical to *P. minuta*), *K. capsulata* (identical to *P. capsulata*), and *N. holstii* (identical to *P. holstii*).

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